

Docket 60873
Serial No. 10/706,688

PATENT APPLICATION

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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

6. (previously presented) A patient lifting apparatus, comprising:

an upright member;

a boom mechanically associated with said upright member for conveying a patient from one location to another;

a support structure for attaching said upright member to a bed frame, said support structure being arranged to transfer torque from the lifting apparatus to the bed frame during operation, said support structure comprising a lower support bar that extends across the bed frame and has each of its ends fastened to a respective leg of the bed frame; and

a telescoping foot member that extends from the lower support bar and is movable between a stored position and an extended position for stabilizing the apparatus during use.

7. (previously presented) The patient lifting apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said support structure further comprises an upper support bar that extends across the bed frame and has each of its ends fastened to a respective side of the headboard of the bed frame.

8. (original) The patient lifting apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said upper support bar comprises a pair of clamps positioned at respective ends thereof for engaging the respective sides of the headboard of the bed frame.

Docket 60873
Serial No. 10/706,688

PATENT APPLICATION

9. (previously presented) The patient lifting apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said support structure comprises an upper bearing that allows smooth rotation of the upright member relative to the bed frame, and a lower bearing that transfers the vertical force of a patient's weight into the bed frame.

10. (previously presented) A patient lifting apparatus, comprising:
an upright member;
a boom mechanically associated with said upright member for conveying a patient from one location to another;
a support structure for attaching said upright member to a bed frame, said support structure being arranged to transfer torque from the lifting apparatus to the bed frame during operation; and
a support arm mechanically associated with the upright member for rotating said support arm along with the boom, said support arm being positioned to engage a floor to transfer the vertical force of a patient's weight into the floor.

11. (previously presented) The patient lifting apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said boom is pivotally mounted to said upright member for rotation about a generally horizontal axis, and further comprising a linear actuator connected between said upright member and said boom for raising and lowering said boom.

Docket 60873
Serial No. 10/706,688

PATENT APPLICATION

12. (previously presented) The patient lifting apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said upright member is pivotal about a vertical axis, and further comprising an actuator for rotating the upright member about said vertical axis to swing said boom in a side-to-side movement.

13. (previously presented) The patient lifting apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said boom is rigidly mounted to said upright member, and further comprising a winch having a cable that hangs from a free end of said boom for lifting a patient.

Claims 14-15 (canceled)

16. (previously presented) The patient lifting apparatus according to claim 17, wherein:
said lower attachment system of the support structure comprises a lower support bar that extends across the bed frame and has each of its ends fastened to a respective leg of the bed frame; and

further comprising a telescoping foot member that extends from the lower support bar and is movable between a stored position and an extended position for stabilizing the apparatus during use.

Docket 60873
Serial No. 10/706,688

PATENT APPLICATION

17. (previously presented) In combination, a bed frame and a patient lifting apparatus, said bed frame comprising a plurality of legs and a headboard, said patient lifting apparatus comprising:

an upright member;

a boom mechanically associated with said upright member for conveying a patient from one location to another;

a support structure having an upper attachment system that secures the upright member to the headboard, and a lower attachment system that secures the upright member to at least one of the legs, said support structure being arranged to transfer torque from the lifting apparatus into the bed frame during operation; and

wherein said upper attachment system of the support structure comprises an upper support bar that extends across the bed frame and has each of its ends fastened to a respective side of the headboard of the bed frame.

18. (previously presented) The patient lifting apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said upper attachment system comprises an upper bearing that allows smooth rotation of the upright member relative to the bed frame, and said lower attachment system comprises a lower bearing that transfers the vertical force of a patient's weight into the bed frame.

Docket 60873
Serial No. 10/706,688

PATENT APPLICATION

19. (previously presented) The patient lifting apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a support arm mechanically associated with the upright member that rotates along with the boom about a generally vertical axis and engages a floor on which the bed is supported to transfer the vertical force of a patient's weight into the floor via the support arm rather than via the bed frame.

20. (canceled)

Docket 60873
Serial No. 10/706,688

PATENT APPLICATION

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Office Action on the merits dated January 26, 2005. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 6-13 and 16-19 remain in this application with claims 6, 10, and 17 being independent. Claims 6-9, 11-13, and 16-19 stand allowed.


As Examiner Conley concluded in a telephone discussion with Justin Poplin (Pat. Reg. No. 53,476) and Dale Ream (Pat. Reg. No. 45,798) on February 8, 2005, the current rejection of claim 10 can not stand because the cited art does not disclose a "support arm mechanically associated with the upright member for rotating said support arm along with the boom, said support arm being positioned to engage a floor to transfer the vertical force of a patient's weight into the floor" (claim 10). The Dalton support arm 58 is not "positioned to engage a floor to transfer the vertical force of a patient's weight into the floor", but is instead more analogous to the applicant's linear actuator 24. Since the prior does not disclose, teach, or suggest the support arm 55 set forth in claim 10 (and pages 12-13 of the specification as filed), the rejection of claim 10 should be withdrawn and this application should proceed immediately to allowance. As discussed over the telephone, a Petition to Make Special has been granted for this application based on the applicant's advanced age. Since no rejections or objections remain in this application and a Petition to Make Special has been granted, the applicant respectfully request that this application proceed to allowance as quickly as possible. If there is anything that the applicant can do to facilitate this, the examiner is respectfully asked to contact the applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Docket 60873
Serial No. 10/706,688

PATENT APPLICATION

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: February 8, 2005


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